THE OLD LEWISBURG ACADEMY.

CHAP., V. -- SKETCHES OF DR. MCELHENNEY'S SCHOLARS.

Examine whether these things be true.

JAMES ATLEE PRICE.

The lives of public men are an easy task to the biographer, but the history of a private life is sometimes difficult to follow out in detail. Leaving Lewisburg so long ago it isn't at all strange that the remembrance of James Atlee Price is fast fading from the minds of our oldest citizens. He was a cousin of John Price, whose family still lives between Lewisburg and Frankford, and a cousin of Jacob Price, who fought in the war of 1812 and was the father of J. M. Price, our deputy sheriff. James Atlee's father, Thomas Price, was a Welshman, who enlisted in the American army and became a prisoner of war when Gen. Lincoln surrendered Charleston, S. C., to the British forces. Thomas Price's temporary home, before entering the army, was in North Carolina. Escaping from the British he came to Virginia and married Miss Margaret Beard, a sister of Col. Thos. Beard, of Pocahontas, who was his second wife. - James Atlee, her oldest son, was born May 6th, 1806, in what was then Botetourt county, but is now known as "Scott's Tavern," at the east base of Seven-mile mountain, in Craig county. He attended the Academy under Dr. McElhenney, and then learned the blacksmith trade with Wm. Spotts, father of Mark L. Spotts, in Lewisburg. In 1828 he was married by Dr. McElhenney to Miss Margaret D. Poage, at the residence of Josiah Beard on Locust creek, in Pocahontas county, after which he settled at Marlin's Bottom and turned his attention to farming. He lived at Marlin's Bottom from 1828 until his death in December 1874. Mr. Price always "had a passion for mechanism, and engaged in various mechanical enterprises, none of which ever came to anything but pecuniary waste and vexation of spirit. He was induced to give much attention to patent-rights, but to his own sorrow and the bitter regrets of his family, he found them to be patent-wrongs." Notwithstanding this he was one of the best informed men on general subjects in Pocahontas. The only office he ever assumed was to take charge of the Marlin's Bottom Postoffice when first established in 1846. For more than forty years he was an influential member of the Huntersville Presbyterian church, and much of the time was one of its Ruling Elders. One evening in December, 1874, he seemed unusually feeble - the weight of 76 years was upon him - yet he called for the Bible, had the lamp lighted, and conducted family worship. After reading the 8th chapter of Mark he gasped out a feeling prayer and retired for the night. The next morning his family found him in a kneeling posture on the floor - dead! Some time during the night his spirit had taken its everlasting flight. He was buried beside his wife, who had preceded him to the grave only a few months before. They sleep near the old homestead in a spot selected by Mrs. Price years before she die

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"Our boast is not that we deduce our birth
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MORTON, JAMES A., JOHN P. and SAMUEL W. MCELHENNEY.

Morton McElhenney's home was in Charleston, South Carolina, and his father, Rev. James McElhenney, was the first minister that instituted a Presbyterian church in that city. In Lewisburg Morton boarded with his uncle John, and was a pupil at the Academy. Completing the Academy course he returned to South Carolina and was sent to Yale College to round out his education. But he didn't choose to tarry long at the College. He was anything but studious. His father was very wealthy, and, to give the truth in a nutshell, Morton entertained a false idea of life - he either couldn't or didn't wish to see the necessity of confining himself to books and hard study. The ease and riches he enjoyed without an effort were allowed to outweigh all the precio gems of Golconda's fairy cavern if they had to be sought after or striven for. Intellectual attainments seemed to have no magnetis for the youth. Wealth is often a drawback rather than an incenti to study, as was proven in this case. While it didn't hurt Allen T. Caperton, who was attending the same College, it killed the energy of Morton McElhenney. He died shortly after returning to his home from College, without selecting a trade or a profession.

James Addison McElhenney was born May 13th, 1809, at either the Wethered or the Harlow house. He was the oldest child of Dr. McElhenney, and in his literary tastes was the very antipode of his cousin Morton. Dr. McElhenney prepared and entered him at Washington College. Leaving this College after a time he attende the Ohio University, at Athens, was graduated, and then came home and married Miss Cornelia C. Cordoza before he was twenty-one yea old. Miss Cordoza was a daughter of Jacob Cordoza, one of the Principals of the Lewisburg Academy, who was living in Lewisburg at the time of his daughter's marriage, March 4th, 1830. Mr. McElhenney studied and practiced law in Lewisburg, then moved to Indiana and practiced law, but finally returned to Lewisburg and died in August, 1835. He was a very handsome man, and was noted for his pleasing address and fine personal appearance. Mr. Geo. Taylor, his school-

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The Old Lewisburg Academy

Chapter 29-- Sketches of Dr. Mc-Elhenney's Scholars.

Lieut. Moses, Alexander H., and Dr. Moses McClintic.

The origin of the Irish race, to which the McClintics belong, is involved in much obscurity, yet ethnologists fix it as belonging to the old Brito-Celtic stock. Reason and truth agree that it is the purest Celtic stock in existence. From Tyrone County, Ireland -- the midst of this people-- the McClintocks immigrated to and settled in Pennsylvania during the first half of the 18th. century.--- The original spelling of the name was McClintock. Why has it been so scrupulously retained by the descendants of the same people all over the North, and as studiously corrupted in this section and all over the South and Southwest ? Sir Francis Leopold McClintock, the Irish Artic explorer, clung to the original form on the other side of the ocean, while John McClintock, a Methodist clergyman and author of some celebrity, adhered to it with the same pertinacity on the American side. Indeed, as a matter of taste, some of the descendants with us prefer the early mode, and yet continue to use the corrupted orthography.

Now, as to the descendants of the four McClintic brothers (Robert, Alexander, Moses, and Joseph,) who came from Pennsylvania to Bath and Greenbrier Counties --- are they numberless ? Not entirely, as yet, but this much, without missing the truth, can be said they are"legion". Yet a history of the remaining Pennsylvania brothers and sisters who originated the various McClintic families of the Northern States cannot be written, for the simple reason that nothing is known of them. Lethe's dark stream has forced their identity beneath the murky tide.

Three of the original four brothers who settled in this region, by marrying sisters, become sons-in-law to an "old Mosey" Mann of Bath County. Robert (better known as "Robin") McClintic, having chosen his wife (Jane (?) from this flock of sisters, settled on Culbertson's creek, Greenbrier county. And what style of a house do you suppose he erected as a dwelling ? Advocating the ventilation theory, his home for years was nothing more than a "half-faced" cabin, the exact counterpart of our present day open sugar-camps. At least 45 years ago this old gentleman died, leaving to each of his children a farm of 129 acres or thereabouts.

Lieut. Moses.

One of his sons, probably the eldest child, was born in Bath on the 11th. of April, 1789. In the year 1800, at the age of 13, (known as "curly-headed Mose") he came with his parents to Greenbrier. His boyhood and youth is said to have been exceedingly wild and reckless. And as Ensign of a volunteer company taken from Lewisburg in the war of 1812 by Capt. Solomon Taylor he entered the of Col. Richard M. Johnson, of Kentucky, and fought under General Harrison in the fierce and bloody battles of the Northwest. But why do you consider him "a youthful warrior?" Manlius, who threw down the Gauls from the Roman capitol, had received twenty three wounds and taken two spoils before he was 17 yrs. of age. At Fort Meigs, Ohio, Mr. McClintic was elevated to a Lieutenancy. --Col. Alisha Callison of Lewisburg was also a member of Capt. Taylor's company, and returned to Greenbrier with this

newly-constituted Lieutenant. Some time between his return from the field of battle and his marriage on the 22nd. of October, 1823, with Miss. Samuel Mead's daughter "Peggy", Mr. McClintic entered as a pupil at the Academy and boarded with "Old Tommy" Creigh opposite the "Barracks" in which Capt. Taylor's company had been previously garrisoned.-- The fourteen intervening years between 1823 and 1837 were in part spent at his "little cabin home" in the woods on Culbertson's creek, and in part as superintendent of the Col. John Stuart estate at Frankford. In these years it was that he and his Greenbrier wife laid the firm, sensible foundation of that frugality which enabled them at death to leave an estate valued at from 20,000 dollars to 30,000 dollars. Their golden rule of living, under every circumstance, was to do without rather than to borrow anything. In those times it was considered an honor for a wife to work and save the earnings of the husband. But times change and men change with them-- and women too. What is it the ear frequently catches in passing by the moonlight strollers of 1884 ? Isn't it a dialogue somewhat after this order ? "You know, Eudora, that as we are so soon to be married we should cease to live an enchanted dream and begin to take practical views of life." "I know that, Algernon, and have thought it all over much more often than you think." "You know that I am not rich, and cannot afford to keep my bird of paradise in a gilded cage." "It makes no difference, Algy, for I have already picked out a sweet little house in the suburbs, which I know you can rent."--"How good of you, my angel; and then you know that in order to pay for the furniture, which must be bought on installments, it will not do keep a servant. Can my darling's pretty white hands make bread and attend to all other household duties ?" "Well, no; but I have provided for that too. Mother's people are staying housekeepers, and she and my three maiden aunts will give up boarding and come and live with us."

In 1839, Lieut. McClintic purchased of the widow of Dr. John Simpkins a farm containing 520 and a half acres, and situated about two miles north of Lewisburg. Having been "converted" about the year 1830 he united with the Methodist congregation in Frankford, but after this purchase transferred his membership to the Methodis E. Church in Lewisburg. And what Dr. McElhenney was to the Presbyterian Church Dr McClintic was to the Methodist with its doctrines of Sanctification and Perfect Love -- the North Star of its faith. In the matter of religion these men wore their own colors in spite of winds and weather, storms and sunshine. But it was the failure to realize that each had a right to his own opinions which created the life long estrangement between them. One day, meeting on horseback in the public road, the controversy waxed so warm that the riding whip of each was lifted in menacing attitude over the head of the other, and--"calm, smiling, white-winged, sunny-eyed Peace comtemplated the scene, and dropped a tear." Blows were withheld, but words were spoken which remained unforgiven until both had entered upon that country where its perfect reconciliation between its inhabitants. Honesty of individual convictions -- each believing the other wrong and himself in the right-- is the only reason to be given for their failure to span these abysses of religious controversy, as the Romans did those of civil strife, with "a bridge of gold."-- Why, even "Caesar wept over his great enemy (Pompey). Rivals sleep together in the Walhalla of Bavaria. The factions of Italy are entombed under one roof in Santa Croce. Even Russia permits a monument to her Polish foes at Cracow." But religious differences are, of all others, the most difficult to reconcile between man and man.-- Paul and Barnabas tried to settle a matter of opinion once, and what was the sequel ?

So strong was the faith of "Uncle Rose" -- the most of us know G. McClintic by this endearing title -- that it was a usual thing h for him to shout praises to God when "asking a blessing" at the table or during the silent hours of the night when awakened by an overflow of the Holy Spirit. Becoming happy at the sanctuary services he would fill the church with "Hallelujahs !" -- would shout along the street-- at home. "A shouting Methodist ?" Aye, in truth.

"Uncle Rose" was twice elected Constable in his earlier manhood. When married he was in debt to the amount of three hundred dollars, but he soon paid out, and finally "Got rich as a little stream swells into a "mighty river." His industry and attention exacted tribute from all that came within their sphere of action; while his frugality, like the Mediterranean, retained all that ever passed in. Yet he was sparing only to himself --his benevolence, like the co-operations of the same, was, falling on and fertilizing many who were worthy and needy around him. He lived an example to the poor how to become rich, and to the rich an example how to employ riches." His gift of one thousand dollars to help pay for the building of the brick Methodist Church in Frankford was given in bonds executed to him by the Methodist congregation in Lewisburg.-- Lifting with the cash a thousand dollar claim resting on the Lewisburg Church, he donated the bonds as above, which, to the membership at Frankford, proved timely and equivalent to cash. The will left when he died on the 6th. of August,1866, bequeathed his estate to his widow and only child. Knowing how he lived it is useless to ask how he died.

"Upright and honest this old farmer was;
His God he revered, he respected his laws.
Though fameless he lived, he was gone where his worth
Will outshine, like pure gold, all the dross of this earth.
He has ploughed his last furrow, has reaped his last grain.
No morn shall awake him to labor again."

His son, Samuel B., married Ellen, a daughter of Hon. Kyle Bright of Greenbrier, but recently died in his 63rd. year, without issue and without a Will. A tract of 2,500 acres on Culbertson's creek, part of his large landed property, includes the old homestead of his grandfather. Years before his death on the 2nd. of March, 1864, he had been esteemed as one of Greenbrier's most substantial farmers and graziers, whose judgment was always to be relied upon.

The remaining children of old "Robin" were linked in matrimonial bonds in the following italicized order: Alexander and Ailsey Byrd, a sister of Col. Andrew H. Byrd of Highland County. He died in Missouri.-- At one time he owned all the land lying on the east side of the Marlin's Bottom turnpike from Lewisburg to (and including) the Thos. W. McClung farm. Jennie and James Bowen of Spring Creek. William and Margaret McClintic, a daughter of Joseph McClintic of Falling Spring. This couple were full cousins. It is fast passing into a proverb that a species of mental debility, inherited from early times, pervades the entire Mc-Clintic connection. The statement, however, is a broad sweeping insinuation. There is no record of its truth. But the force of the proverb, as applied to particular cases, is lodged in the fact of intermarriage of first cousins. Two of the children of this couple (Robert and Jane) died in the Asylum -- the former at Weston and the latter in

Staunton. Archibald and Margaret Price, a sister of James and John Price of Greenbrier. He died recently in Missouri. Sally and James Price, as above. She died in Missouri. Joseph and Polly Mathews, a sister of James Mathews of Spring Creek. Nancy and John Beard, a son of Maj. Samuel Beard of Renick's Valley. Robert and Mary Leonard, a sister of the late Michael Leonard of Lewisburg. This Rev. Robert was a Methodist local preacher in Greenbrier from about the year 1820 until his death on March 2,1863.

As correctly as possible the family of Alexander McClintic, one of the four original brothers in these parts, will now pass in review. Born in Pennsylvania Feb.12,1760, he came to Bath when but a mere stripling, and all through a life of 83 years was occupied with agricultural pursuits in that county. Jane Mann fell to his lot or choice as a wife, and the names and destines of each of his eleven children must be treated of separately for a better understanding of the family connections. One of these children --

William M., died in Missouri in 1819, at the age of 30 years. He died unmarried.

Robert's possessions lay in Greenbrier, on Sinking Creek, embracing the farms now owned by Garland Brown, Oregon Bobbitt and others. He died (unmarried) in Bath County in June, 1855.

Thomas M., was twice married --first to Eliza, daughter of John Mays of Greenbrier, and afterward to Nancy Estill, a sister of Dr. Thomas and Benjamin Estill, of Virginia. "And hereby hangs a tale." The father of Miss Estill is said to have been one of the most eccentric characters on record.--Imagining himself a goose he formed a nest of rocks by the roadside and would hover over it for hours at a time. When anyone approached to near he would rise and assume the peculiar blowing and wing motion of a mother goose when defending her nest or a brood of goslings. The widow of Thomas McClintic is living with one of her sons (William) at Green Bank, Pocahantus County. The other son (John S.) is a resident of Frankford.

Alexander H.

The youngest of these eleven children, was born July 16,1810. About all the education he received was gathered up at the Lewisburg Academy. Following in the footsteps of his father this pupil and all of his brothers became farmers in after life. October 2nd, 1834, he took to wife his cousin (twice removed) Alice, a daughter of "puttery" Wm. McClintic of Bath. He was a Justice of the Peace for many years, and as Presiding Justice was re-elected time and again, until failing health caused a non-acceptance of the office. Prome serving in the Virginia Legislature during the session of 1850-51 he found that public life was very distasteful-- the love for home beating stronger in his bosom than the love for office. What a noble example for the emulation of West Virginia's legislators ! In the legislative halls or outside, occupied with business, or in quest of pleasure, Mr. McClintic's mind was constantly haunted with the sentiment of Dr. Holmes" musical idea --

"Mute are a hundred long-famed lyres;
Hushed all their golden strings;
Only lay the coldest bosom fires;

One song, one only, never tires,
While sweet-voiced Memory sings.
No spot so lone but Echo knows
That dear familiar strain;
In Tropic isles, on Artic snows,
Through burning lips its music flows,
And rings its fond refrain--
Home, sweet, sweet, Home."

Mr. McClintic was a man of indomitable energy. Though considered one of the best farmers of his section he never became wealthy, yet did attain to competence and independence. From about the year 1861 or 62 until his death, which occurd May 25th. 1876, he held the office of Ruling Elder in a Presbyterian Church near where he lived.--Spasmodic asthma, from which he had suffered intensely for a number of years, occasioned his death.

"Twas a gloom-giving day when this old farmer died;
The stout-hearted mourned, the affectionate cried;
And the prayers of the just for him did ascend,
For they all lost a brother, a man and a friend."

His lingering affliction was borne with so marked a cheerfulness that wonder was often excited at his exuberant flow of spirits under such labored respiration. In harmony with the poet his children could say, "We daughters, too. The wife and five of these daughters survived him, but in a little over two years thereafter the mother was laid side by side with the father-- leaving to their children the evidence that they had died with the prospect of a happy immortality. Jane M., a maiden lady and the eldest of Mr. McClintic's living daughters, now occupies with another maiden sister, Mary, the old homestead on Jackson's river. Sarah, the wife of John P. McDonald of Bath County. She is the mother of three sons. Susan, the wife of John S.McClintic, resides in Shelby County, Mo., having two sons. Bettie married James. E. Arbuckle, late of Greenbrier, but now of Gilmer County, WirVirginia.--Her children are four-- two sons and two daughters.

The fourth son of old Alexander McClintic was Moses, who died in Bath in 1862. His widow, a daughter of John Porter of Bath, and nine children survived him.

Ailsey (or Alice) married a son of "Old Major" Mann of Bath. This pair furnished wives to Harrison Handly and James Stevenson of Greenbrier. Polly was married to a Mr. Wise of Highland County, and Sarah to Col. Wm. Shields of Frankford. But Margaret and Nancy and Jane were never married.

The wife of Moses McClintic (should be William), another of the four original brother, was Ailsey Mann. His was a tragic end -- drowned while rafting logs on Jackson's river. William H. Cavendish, the lawyer, afterward married his widow. "Puttery Billy", the legislator, and Moses, were the only two known sons of this elder Moses of Bath. And each of these two sons also reared large families of children.

Those of Moses were paired off in marriage as follows -- William to a daughter of Sampson Mathews of Pocahantus. George to a daughter of Gen. Wm. Skeen of Covington. Dr. Hezekiah to a daughter of Col. William Shields of Frankford. Archibald to a Miss Thompson of Botetourt. Alice to John D. Clark of Monroe. Another daughter (name unknown) to

a Mr. McCormick of Virginia. But Lieut. Henry, as yet companionless, is the owner of a large cattle ranch in Texas.

"Puttery Billy's" mind was thoroughly stored with historic lore. Hume's History of England was so thoroughly memorized that it mattered little what point was raised he could cite the inquirer to the volume, page and paragraph, and then quote it word for word. This faculty gave him force in the Virginia Legislature as the representative from Bath. And here we are reminded of a fact which illustrates his tact in surmounting political difficulties. Col. Andrew H.Byrd began to aspire to a share in the legislative honors with Mr. McClintic. They knew it would not do to cut each other's throats, politically, so Mr. McClintic conceived the idea of forming a new county, and calling it "Highland." In due time the line was run so as to throw Col. Byrd within the new county, and then both represented their respective counties as often as they chose.--(The first wife of the late D.J. Ford of Lewisburg was a daughter of the Col. Byrd.) This "puttery" Mr. McClintic -- his wife having been a sister of Josian Shanklin and the aunt of Harvey and Austin Handly of Greenbrier -- was father to seven children. One of them---

Shanklin, was twice married; first to a Miss Wilson of Rockbridge, and afterward to a sister of Col. John F. Shields of Alderson.

The wife of James was a daughter of "old Major" Mann of Bath.

Colonel William (known as "Peedles,") is the present County Surveyor of Bath, and has served as such for a number of years.-- He owns and occupies the old homestead of his father, and his wife (Nancy) is a daughter of Col. Andrew H. Byrd.

Dr. Moses.

The merest skeleton of a history is all that can be given of this pupil. When in Lewisburg, attending at the Academy, he boarded at the residence of Dr. McElhenney. He and his cousin Alexander H. were drawn to Lewisburg to school through the influence of "Col." Samuel S. Thompson. Completing the Acedemic course Moses repaired to Romney and read medicine under Dr. Williams, an able physician of that village. After attending a due course of Lectures at some Medical College in the North he was married to a Miss Susan Inskip of Hampshire County, a lady who came of one of the best families of that county.

Catching the "Western fever" the Doctor, in company with W. Hamilton Byrd, moved to Marion County, Mo., and located for the double purpose of farming and practicing his profession near Palmyra. At this point the two men purchased farms, but in a few years an opening with better prospects was presented near Monroe City in the western part of Marion County, and the two removed thence and settled each on a "section" (640 acres)- The Dr. and Hamilton 4 miles from Monroe City.

The Doctor's practice from that time to the present has been extensive and eminently successful. And his farming operations, discreetly managed, have also assisted him in amassing a fortune of from 20,000 dollars to 30,000 dollars. During the late war his sympathies were decidedly with the "Lost Cause." As yet he has filled no political office, but as an advocate of, and an official in, the Masonic Order his superior would be hard to find in Missouri. Despite the fact 70 odd winters have silvered the hair, the heart and limbs of this Christian gentleman are light and lithe, and his mind as active and

tenacious as a man of fifty years. His wife died about three years ago.

The Doctor's five children --- three married and two single-- are also living in Missouri. John, the eldest, married "Mollie"Cooper of Marion County. Mackie and Sudie are single and at home. The wife of Wm. S. is a daughter (or neice) of Col. J.F. Shields of Alderson, West Virgina. And Allie wedded Chas. Jordon, late of Rockbridge, Va., but now in charge of his father-in-law's farm in Missouri.

For many years Dr. McClintic has been an officer and a consistent member of a church which is fast gaining groung in West Virginia as well as in Missouri -- the Protestant Epispopal. So far as known the Doctor and his sister Susan are the only members of the whole McClintic connection who subscribe to the doctrines of this "daughter of the Church of England," which occupies a middle ground between the tenets of Calvin and those of Arminius.

Ailsey (or Alice) one of the daughters of "Puttery Billy" wedded Alexander H. McClintic, her second cousin. Susan married W. Hamilton, son of Col. A.H.Byrd. And Jane, a maiden daughter, resides with her brother, Col. Wm., at the old home place.

The last brother of the original four (Joseph McClintic,) settled on what is now the Albert Hannan land at Falling Spring, in Greenbrier County. The house in which he lived, built when the Indians were expected at any moment, was a double log structure chinked with rock. It withstood the tooth of time and the ravage of the elements until a few years back, when it succumbed to the force of taste and progress. A daughter (Margaret) of this old gentleman married her full cousin, Wm. McClintic, and became mother to nine children. Our county records show the marriage of a certain William McClintic to Agnes Hannan on April 2,1801, who is supposed to have been a son of this Joseph McClintic. The land on which the Falling Spring Presbyterian Church stand was given by this early settler, to remain in possession of the Presbyterians, according to the deed, "as long as wood grows or water runs. Mrs. Jas. Scott, a Mrs. Handly, and a Mrs. Hodge were also daughters of this Joseph.

M. W. S.
Lewisburg, April 28th, 1884.

Reference:

The Greenbrier Independent Newspaper. Lewisburg, West Virginia, Thursday Evening, May 1,1884.